

Council on Aging Board Meeting

March 9, 2005

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tannenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Lillian Goodman, Tim Swiss and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager was also present. Board member Helen McLaughlin was excused.

1. Chairman's Comments:

Paul opened the meeting at 10:00 am. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board. He reported that UMass dermatologist would be offering a free cancer screening on May 14, 2005 from 8:00 to 12:00 am

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon reported that she had a request from a senior that the Bocce courts be named for one of our deceased volunteers. The board felt that this would not be appropriate at this time. She also reported that a MOU (memorandum of understanding) with the housing authority regarding operation of our 3rd van was awaiting approval by that group.

3. Liaison reports:

CMAA:—Vicki Zwerdling has changed her staff position from U.S.Rep.McGovern to State Sen.Augustus so we may not have her reporting on CMAA activities.

Friends of the SCC, Inc.:--Helene reported that the Calendar "*March Madness*" fund raiser was under way via their web site and that they were planning a luncheon at Indian Meadows in June.

Shrews.Comm.Part./Children:--Sharon reported for Elaine Baskin that a liaison person had been found and that she has 7 new volunteers. Elaine is also working on the volunteers' recognition day now scheduled for April 22nd at 2:00 pm. A "*flashlight*" gift is planned for approximately 200 volunteers expected to attend.

Lillian asked Sharon to have Elaine's volunteers complete a Health Fair booklet by April 1st so that the health fair committee could plan to meet soon after her return from Florida.

Elder Services, Worc./Outreach:--Walter's report was made available to the board, all of whom agreed that he was filling the needs admirably.

4. New Business:

New Grant position:—Sharon reported that she had 6 responses to her ad for the job and only 2 resumes submitted. She will be meeting with the 2 this week.

Strategic Planning:—Lillian suggested that we should have the results of our 2 year old survey before scheduling a planning session. Some discussion ensued on the possibility of manually putting together the data rather than wait for the computer analyses to be completed. There are about 300 responses to the survey with multiple questions and answers to be analyzed. No decision reached.

Nutrition Update:--Sharon reported that she had signed the contract with the Worcester Age Center covering the operation of the meal site. Copies were given to the board, some discussion was held but we agreed that it was a reasonable contract, considering the history of our relationship.

Transportation:--Some questions remain regarding use of the 3rd van for special trips weekends, etc.

5. New Business:

Formula grant:—Sharon reported that MCOA is lobbying at State for an increase to \$6.00/senior in next year's budget.

Cultural Arts Grant:—we expect a \$1,000.00 award for this year.

6. Other:

Vending Machine:—Apparently the Town Manager has reconsidered the feasibility. Sharon is negotiating with Coca-Cola and Polar to provide a machine. The board recommended that it be installed near the kitchen in the area outside the serving counter.

Furniture/Decorating Committee:—Helene indicated that some furnishings are in need of repair but there is some uncertainty about the status of this committee and responsibility. The board felt that the town should take care of repairs at this point.

7. Legislative News:

Rep. Karyn Polito joined the meeting to report that a Legislative Committee on Tax Issues had been formed. Issues of interest to seniors include the "write-off" program among others with local options for implementation being in the mix. Another item she mentioned involved the question of compensation for "relatives" providing home care to Medicaid patients.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Concordia, Secretary*